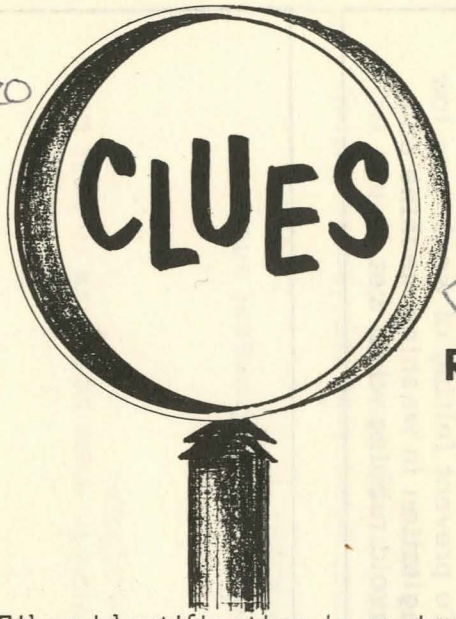
1960

EC60-420 Clues to Clothing Care -- Read your Fiber Label

E.C. 60-420



CLUES to clothing care--

READ YOUR FIBER LABEL.....

Fiber identification is an important clue to the use and care of modern fabrics. The Fiber Identification Act, effective March 3, 1960, requires that each textile fiber product, such as clothing, must carry a label which gives the generic (family) names and percentages by weight of the fibers in the product.

Each generic name designates a kind of fiber that differs in origin. The natural fibers--cotton, linen, silk, and wool--are familiar but some of the man-made fibers have unfamiliar generic names.

Generic names are useful to the dry-cleaner and homemaker in the care of clothing. They are a clue to proper washing, drying, and pressing temperatures, and to spot removal and storage.

Trade names exist for many man-made fibers. If a manufacturer uses a trade name he must pair it with the generic name. There are many more trade names than generic names. If the homemaker becomes familiar with the generic names of fibers, this will be her key to proper care.

Besides trade names for fibers there are trade names for yarn processes. One example of a trade name for the stretch process is Helanca; for the bulk process, Banlon; and for the textured effect process, Tycora.

Textile finishes may be identified by trade names. One example of a trade name for wash-and-wear finish is Regulated Cotton; for water-repellent, Cravenette; for stain-repellent, Scotchgard; and for shrinkage control, Sanforized.

Reliable manufacturers base performance claims and care recommendations on yarn construction, fabric weave or knit, textile finish, and finally on garment design and trim; in addition to the fiber content.

Look for performance and care information on the labels of fabrics by the yard as well as ready-wear when you look for the generic name of the fiber.

The following table lists all the generic names and examples of some fiber trade names now used in clothing. You will find other trade names on labels, but will have no trouble identifying them--since they will be paired with the correct generic name.

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FOR CLUES TO CLOTHING CARE--READ YOUR FIBER LABEL

Generic (Family) Name	Trade Names	Clues to Care	
Cotton Linen		May be washed and ironed without special care. Avoid chlorine bleaches if resin finished unless the label says it is safe to use them.	
Rayon	(Cupioni (Bemberg (Fortisan (Cordura (	Remove oily stains before washing resin finished fabrics; washing may set these stains permanently.	Rayon needs more careful handling when wet than cotton and linen.
	(Coloray (Colorspun (Jetspun		Coloray, Colorspun, and Jetspun are solution dyed rayons and highly resistant to fading.
Silk		Cool temperatures in washing and pressing prevent yellowing.	
Wool			To prevent felting of wool, use low agitation in washing machine and avoid rubbing when wet.
Rubber	Lastex	Do not expose to excessive sunlight or heat; to oils, fats, or greases (lotions or creams).	
Spandex	(Lycra (Vyrene	Wash frequently to remove body oils.	
		Avoid constant overstretch, such as wearing the same girdle every day.	

Acrylic	(Orlon (Acrilan (Creslan (Zefran	Require low temperature in drying and pressing. Water-borne stains can be wiped or washed off easily.	
Modacrylic	(Verel (Dynel	Remove oily stains before washing; washing may set these stains permanently.	Dynel is more sensitive to heat than the others.
Nytril	Darvan		
Nylon	(Caprolan (Nylenka	Clothing requires little pressing; sweaters do not require blocking.	Nylon is the strongest and most durable.
Polyester	(Dacron (Teron (Vycron (Kodel	Moth and mildew-resistant.	Kodel gives less problem in letting down a hem because the crease will not show.

		Require low temperature in drying and pressing.	
Acetate	(Celanese (Estron	Water-borne stains can be wiped off easily.	
	(Chromspun (Colorsealed (Celaperm	Remove oily stains before washing; washing may set these stains permanently.	Chromspun, Colorsealed, and Celaperm are solution dyed acetates--highly resistant to fading.
Triacetate	Arnel	Dissolved by acetone, paint remover, and fingernail polish remover. Sensitive to fading from atmospheric gases. Moth and mildew-resistant.	Arnel can take higher pressing temperatures than acetate.